HAPPY 136TH BIRTHDAY, THE TECH!!

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WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 48°F | 36°F Rain

FRI: 44°F | 30°F Sunny

SAT: 50°F | 25°F Rain Late

Volume 137, Number 32

Thursday, November 16, 2017

GOP tax bill may increase grad student taxes by $10,000

Grad students organize phone banks against bill

By Whitney Zhang
STAFF REPORTER

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, set to go before the House of Representatives for a floor vote, has caused widespread concern on campus, specifically regarding Section 1204, which may add previously excluded qualified tuition reductions to graduate students' taxable income. According to President L. Rafael Reif and the Graduate Student Council, this could increase the taxes of each of MIT's nearly 7,000 graduate students' by $10,000 or more.

Reif released a statement to the MIT community by email yesterday, writing, "MIT is actively following developments in DC and striving to achieve a better outcome" and commended graduate student leaders in arguing against the provision.

The GSC wrote in a statement published on its website, "The resulting annual income tax of at least $13,000 would account for more than one-third of the average $37,000 annual stipend that MIT graduate students receive, leaving them with less than $24,000 to live on." It urged members of the House of Representatives to oppose the provisions.

The GSC has hosted two "Call your Congressman" events on campus. The first was in coordination with the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students and resulted in a total of 268 calls to 99 offices in 23 states.

However, Peter Su G, the GSC external affairs chair, said that this was merely the "first step to provide an avenue to [graduate students] express how the bill will impact them." The GSC plans to do further

Taxes, Page 3

SARAH WANG—THE TECH

The MIT Veteran Community honors MIT's fallen alumni by placing symbolic hats in Lobby 10 in a Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 10.

Vanu Bose, Class of '87 and Corporation member, dies at 52

Bose helped reestablish cell service for victims of Hurricane Maria

By Jessica Shi
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Vanu Bose '87, a member of the MIT Corporation and a leader in bringing cellular coverage to underserviced regions in the U.S. and abroad, died Saturday of a sudden pulmonary embolism at age 52.

Bose was elected to the Corporation, MIT's board of trustees, July 1, 2013. Since then, he has served on four visiting committees: Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Mathematics, Media Lab and Media Arts and Sciences, and Social Sciences, Robert Millard '73, chairman of the Corporation, wrote in an email to *The Tech.*

Visiting committees assess academic and other major departments at MIT on a biannual basis.

In addition to his positions at the Corporation, Bose advised several other groups and initia-

Bose, Page 2

GWAMIT hosts forum on sexual harassment after celeb. accusations

Talk addresses concerns about faculty retaliation against reporters of harassment, effects on letters of recommendation

By Mark Goldman

Representatives from five administrative offices convened Nov. 3 to discuss sexual harassment at an event put on by Graduate Women at MIT, an organization which advocates for female graduate students. Event organizer Amanda Kedaigle, one of the executive chairs of GWAMIT, planned the discussion because, in her words, "With Harvey Weinstein and the #MeToo campaign gaining so much attention, this is a great time to have this conversation. We want to show there are many people on campus to help."

Kaitlyn Hood, a postdoc on the Postdoctoral Association for Women Engaged in Research (POWER) board, attended the discussion as her first GWAMIT event. She told *The Tech* in an interview that she came to the event to "be part of the conversation that is happening in the country and on campus". She expressed concerns that the Title IX office's responsibility is to protect the university, and she likened the reporting structure at universities to the military, where "the people who are supposed to hold others accountable are also abusers."

After the crowd settled, each representative from the offices introduced themselves. The faculty representative, Sheila Widnall '60, who chairs the National Academy of Science Committee on Addressing the Impact of Sexual Harass-

Harassment, Page 10

AMY SHIM—THE TECH

Construction workers prepare the foundation for a cogeneration power plant on Wednesday, Nov. 8, to be constructed on Vassar Street next to Building 42.

Thefts reported in East Campus

East Campus residents reported a backpack, credit cards, and two laptops stolen, according to a "timely warning" email issued by MIT Police Nov. 15. The currently identified suspect is a white male about 60 to 70 years old with white hair wearing New Balance sneakers. The warning also recommended that students lock their doors and windows at all times, document serial numbers of electronics and take pictures of valuables, and report suspicious behavior.

— Jessica Shi

Turnout at MIT precinct increases in Cambridge elections

MIT's precinct 2-2 had a 252.8% voter increase from 2015 to 2017, according to Cambridge Election Commission data. The unofficial results of the Nov. 7 elections were that all six incumbents who ran and three new officials were elected to the Cambridge City Council. Incumbents E. Denise Simmons, Marc McGovern, Jan Devereux, Timothy Toomey, Jr., Dennis Carlone, and Craig Kelley were re-elected. Candidates Sumbul Siddiqui, Alanna Marie Mallon, and Fossil Free MIT-endorsed Quinton Zondervan were newly elected. The candidates that the MIT Democrats endorsed — Nadya Okamoto, Samuel Gebru, and Vatsady Sivongxay — all lost. The results may change after absentee and provisional ballots are counted Nov. 17.

— Sharon Chao

IN SHORT

Drop date is Nov. 22. Remember to get in touch with your advisor if you plan to drop a class, and remember to click the final submit button after their approval!

A blood drive will take place Nov. 20 and Nov. 21, 8 a.m.–6 p.m., in La Sala on the second floor of the student center. See web.mit.edu/blood-drive/www/ for more details.

Normal Red Line service between Kendall and Park St. will resume this weekend. Shuttle service that had been planned for the next few weekends is cancelled.

ALL QUIET ON THE EASTERN FRONT
War with North Korea won't happen unless leaders provoke one.
OPINION, p. 4

LIBATIONS WITH LECTURERS
Season premiere Tuesday, Nov. 21.
NEWS, p. 2

AFRICAN OR EUROPEAN?
Spamalot tackles the big questions.
ARTS, p. 5

MR. BURKE AND MR. HARE
Corpse-selling, serial-killing pair leads dark but moving opera based on true events. **ARTS, p. 5**

COFFEEHOUSE AND CHILL
Lounge reopens as study and hangout space for students.
NEWS, p. 2

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WEATHER

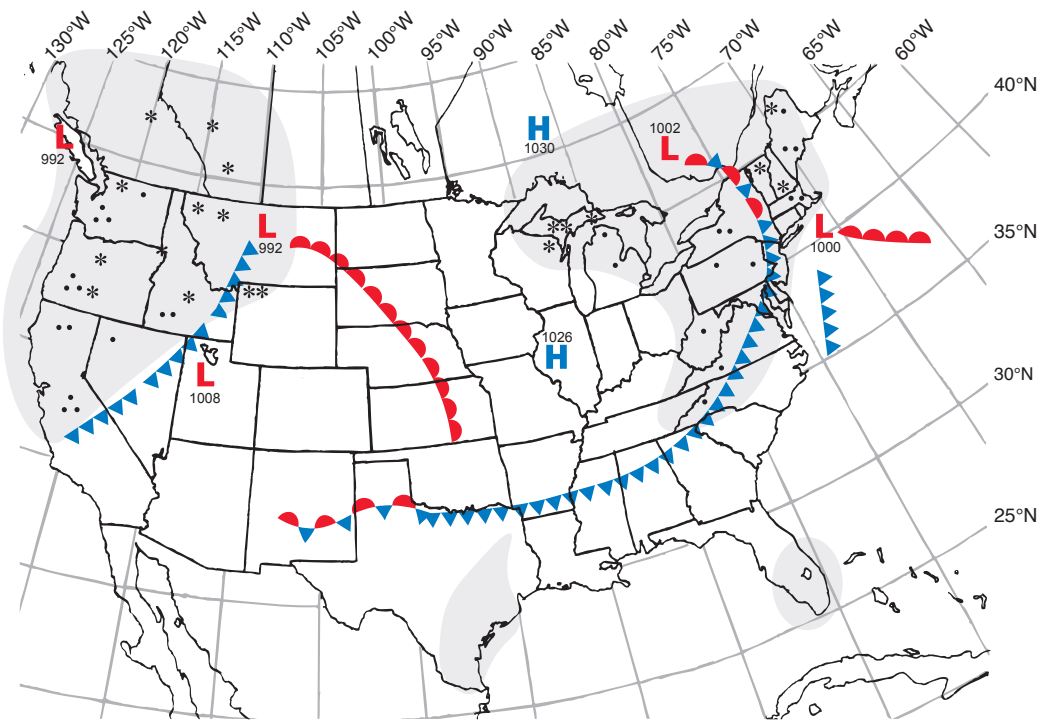
Multiple rain chances over the next several days

By Jordan Benjamin
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The Northeast will see several chances for rain over the next several days as a train of low pressure systems moves rapidly across the northern United States and southern Canada. The first of these is bringing rain and breezy conditions to Boston today, but should depart the area late tonight. In its wake, we can expect a sunny, windy Friday under high pressure with high temperatures in the lower 40s °F and low temperatures in the upper 20s °F. However, this sunny weather will not last long. Another system, currently located over the Pacific Northwest, will move east and, over the weekend, develop into a strong extratropical cyclone over the Great Lakes. It will drive a cold front with rain across the Eastern United States, moving offshore by Monday. Beyond the weekend, the weatherpattern supports continued shots of cold air, along with associated rain and low pressure systems; whether this pattern will continue into winter remains unclear.

Extended Forecast

Today: Rain. High around 48°F (9°C). Winds SW at 10-15 mph.
Tonight: Rain ending. Low around 36°F (2°C). Winds NW at around 15 mph.
Tomorrow: Sunny. Breezy. High around 44°F (7°C). Low around 30 °F (-1°C). NW winds at 15-25 mph.
Saturday: Rain late. High around 50°F (10°C). Low around 45°F (7°C).
Sunday: Sunny. High around 73°F (23°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, November 16, 2017

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols
H High Pressure	Trough		Snow	Rain	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Showers	* ▽	• ▽	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	*	•	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	**	••	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*
		Heavy	***	•••	

Coffeehouse Lounge re-opens as study and relaxation space

Grad students will have priority in reserving the room for events

By Sandhya Kalavacherla
STAFF REPORTER

The Coffeehouse Lounge on the third floor of the Stratton Student Center (W20) reopened last month as a space for students to "study, hangout, and relax," according to promotional boards posted around the first floor. The room is now keycard controlled to limit access to MIT students during the academic year.

In an email interview with *The Tech*, Gustavo Burkett, MIT's senior associate dean for diversity and community involvement, said that while the lounge is available for all students, groups reserving the space that provide programming for graduate students will have priority. During the summer and IAP, the space may be made available to rent by non-student groups.

When *The Tech* visited the newly opened space, several students were using the lounge as a study space.

"The lounge is especially nice because it's quiet and spacious, as this floor is mostly unoccupied," Sally Liu '20 said in an interview with *The Tech*. "The lighting is also optimal."

Julia Lee '19 echoed Liu's comments. Lee told *The Tech* that she prefers studying in the Coffeehouse Lounge over the study rooms on the fifth floor of the Student Center, as the fifth floor is often crowded. "It's nice to still be at the Student Center and get studying done," said Lee.

Burkett explained, "The Coffeehouse Lounge in W20 had been used for a concert series until 2001 that did not draw hoped-for audiences. Since then, the space has been used for a wide variety of events and programs throughout the year."

Burkett said that they received several student requests for "more lounges for studying, socializing, and events." In response, Suzy Nelson, vice president and dean for student life, and students from the Graduate Student Council, Undergraduate Association, undergraduate residence halls, and Campus Activities Complex (CAC) Advisory Board worked on developing a students-only lounge space and identified the Coffeehouse Lounge as a prime location last fall.

Since then, CAC has installed amenities including table games, a microwave, and a water fountain in the Coffeehouse.

Bose's doctoral research at MIT led to company founding

Puerto Ricans reconnect with families via Vanu, Inc.

Bose, from Page 1

tives on campus, including the Professor Amar G. Bose Research Grant Program (named in his father's honor), to which he was "passionately dedicated," Millard wrote.

The grants offer up to $500,000 in project funding over three years, and their purpose is to support faculty who pursue unconventional research.

"The awards acknowledge the spirit of insatiable curiosity that my father embraced," Bose said at a November 2016 reception, according to MIT News. The elder Bose '51 founded Bose Corporation and taught as an EECS professor at MIT for over 45 years.

Vanu Bose also made local headlines just last month for his work helping Hurricane Maria victims in Puerto Rico communicate with their families.

Two weeks after the hurricane hit, "only about 15 percent of the U.S. territory [had] cell service," reported Boston radio news station WBUR. "But thousands of Puerto Ricans [were] able to contact people by cell phone, thanks to the work of a Lexington company."

The company, Vanu, Inc., was founded by Bose in 1998 and arose out of his doctoral research on "virtual radio architecture" at MIT. Vanu, Inc. specializes in bringing cost- and energy-efficient cellular infrastructure to remote, rural areas, and newly developed technologies have been piloted in locations as diverse as Vermont and Rwanda.

At the time of the Oct. 5 WBUR story, Bose had donated three stations to Puerto Rico and planned to ship 40 more. Each station, a portable 11 by 12 by 4 inch box, operated in a three-mile radius and connected to a satellite dish that reached a switch in Long Island, which was then connected to various telecom operators, Bose told WBUR.

"All of a sudden, everybody started pulling their phones out because all the text messages from their families and relatives started coming through," Bose said. The renewed internet connection also allowed residents to find resources and arrange to leave the island.

During his time as a student at MIT, Bose earned three degrees: a Bachelor of Science in EECS and Mathematics in 1988, a Master of Science in EECS in 1994, and a PhD in 1999.

Tea with Teachers aims to bridge 'student-teacher gap'

Second season to premiere next Tuesday

By Meenakshi Sivapriya
STAFF REPORTER

Walking into the UA office, it was quite surprising to witness the small and closed setting where the interview with Prof. Eric Lander, conducted by Tea with Teachers, was scheduled to take place. There were two cushioned chairs facing each other in front of a table with tea and a tray of biscuits, and the promise of a peek into a rarely seen side of professors.

TwT started from an attempt by Sina Booeshahghi '17 to get to know teachers better before requesting recommendation letters for grad school. TwT has since then expanded into a project aimed at "bridging the student-teacher gap and making the professors more relatable," according to Talia Khan '20, the current interviewer and producer of the show after Booeshaghi left for Caltech.

The interviews usually last for around an hour, before they get reduced to the four-minute videos which are posted online.

"Hearing Professor [Bob] Langer talk about his struggles as an undergrad shocked me but also gave me a feeling of hope. That is what inspired me to be a part of this great team," said Khan. Langer's episode aired April as the first installment of season one.

Khan also related with Lander, who was interviewed Nov. 1, when he mentioned that he had not had any plans for the future after he finished his undergraduate degree. It made her realize that she is not alone in fearing the unknown after graduation.

By demystifying and humanising some of MIT's professors, TwT hopes to encourage students to approach teachers more confidently and to be inspired by the fact that they too are normal people with non-academic passions, personal lives, failures and stories. They hope to convey the journey of professors as they overcame struggles to help students empathize with them and accept the fact that the path to success is not a highway and does have its ups and downs. This venture can also be extrapolated and viewed as an awareness initiative for students going through rough patches or uncertainties in life.

The opportunity to talk about topics other than academics or research in a light setting seemed to come as a welcome relief for both the professors and students. From daily life routines to aspirations, the professors candidly answer the questions posed.

TwT will premiere the first episode of its second season next Tuesday, Nov. 21, and plans to release new episodes every week on its YouTube channel.

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Graduate student criticizes 'collective hysteria' on tax hike

Taxes, from Page 1

work with the MIT administration "to coordinate a bigger response," including reaching out more to students and the broader public with the MIT D.C. office.

The MIT Democrats executive board took an even stronger stance, calling the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act "abhorrent." The board wrote in an email to *The Tech*, "The idea that graduate students, who already often work grueling hours at effectively below minimum wage, should be liable for some $17,000 of taxes on $36,000 of income is not just ludicrous, it is reprehensible."

The MIT Democrats plan to work with the GSC "to mobilize opposition to this bill." Many of them have already participated in phone banking, letter-writing, and awareness-raising campaigns, according to its statement. The MIT College Republicans executive board did not respond to *The Tech*'s request for comment.

However, some graduate students are less concerned. One student, who asked to remain anonymous, called the general response to the act a "collective hysteria."

He believed that because the bill only repealed the section related to qualified tuition reductions, but not qualified scholarships, it would not impact the graduate students that received tuition waivers. The student also speculated that the Senate version of the bill, which does not include the section in question, will likely be passed instead.

The Tech is still awaiting clarification from Senior Advisor for Communications Michael Rutter, but from President Reif's statement, it appears clear that graduate students' taxes will be affected by the House bill.

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Tech's MLB

By The Tech Sports staff

ain the MLB Postseason. In the Americ
ivision Series against Minnesota with e
heir opponents, the Texas Rangers, reco
me 5 against the Tampa Bay.¶
League, the Philadelphia Phillies swept
ncluding a ho-hitter by Roy Halladay. Th
ries against Atlanta in which every gam
ns will claim their league pennant and
taff weigh in, with department braggin

Can you find the typo? (Answer is below)

The Tech is looking for copy editors!

E-mail *join@tech.mit.edu*

"ho-hitter" in the second line of the second paragraph should be "no-hitter"

secular society of MIT

continuing our signature ex-theist series

OUT AND OUT

in support of those getting out or coming out

EPISODE 4

Ex-Muslims of North America

NORMALIZING DISSENT

سارة مريم محمد

Sarah Haider
Director of Outreach, Ex-Muslims of North America

Maryam Namazie
Spokesperson, Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain

Muhammad Syed
President, Ex-Muslims of North America

In collaboration with the Secular Society of MIT's "Out And Out" programme to support ex-theists, Ex-Muslims of North America (EXMNA) will bring its "Normalizing Dissent" speaker tour to the MIT campus, to advocate for the ex-Muslim community, and to bring nuance to a conversation that is often dominated by cliché and obscurantism from bigots on one side and from apologists on the other.

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GUEST COLUMN

There will be no war

How to act in the current "Cold War"

By Michael Hiebert

It is far too easy nowadays to become overwhelmed with all the strife and conflict worldwide. On all outlets of media, from CNN to Facebook, we find ourselves presented with disaster after disaster, crisis after crisis, war after war. And yet the last fifteen years have been some of the safest the Earth has ever seen.

The most relevant of the long line of threats to worldwide peace comes from a very familiar source: The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), more colloquially known as North Korea. In the recent months, DPRK has made some rather notable strides in their missile program — namely that it now actually exists.

In truth, much of the information comes from DPRK themselves, and, as such, should be taken with a grain of salt as to what their true capabilities are. At worst, they now have a fully functioning intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of delivering a nuclear payload as far east as New York City (or as a worst, *worst* case scenario for many of you reading this, Cambridge, Massachusetts). At best, these are overexaggerated claims referring to an unrefined, unreliable, and imprecise program that can launch missiles an alarming distance but cannot deliver an extraordinary payload with great accuracy.

For our purposes, we will assume the worst: North Korea is fully capable of striking any major city in the United States with a nuclear payload in this hypothetical scenario. Kim Jong Un has successfully enhanced his position on the world stage by becoming a nuclear player. He has the power to unleash a level of devastation that has not been seen since 1945, if ever before. But will he?

Kim is fighting an uphill battle, talking himself and his regime up in a high-stakes game that he cannot afford to lose, even slightly. He walks a thin line: any sign of weakness could lead to political destruction from within, but a step too far in any direction could also spell disaster from his enemies — and defeat for Kim means losing his nation, his regime, and his entire way of life. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea as we know it will be no more; his glorious "republic" squashed under the combined might of the United States and her allies. He will be captured or killed, his family's legacy swept aside and forgotten, his name remembered only as a footnote in the long list of tyrants in history. Kim Jong Un does not want a war, because believe it or not, Kim Jong Un is actually somewhat *rational*. His nuclear strategy is so frightening because it is one with which we ourselves are all too familiar: deterrence.

During the Cold War, it was the fear of losing that outweighed the promise of winning and kept the world at a tentative state of relative peace. It was the concept of what the world would look like in a worst case scenario that kept the Cold War cold. It was the "what if" scenarios that made sure neither side provoked nor attacked the other to a deadly extent, and it is now in this "what if" that Kim seeks to preserve his regime. Kim has escalated the stakes so high that war seems even less desirable than it was previously.

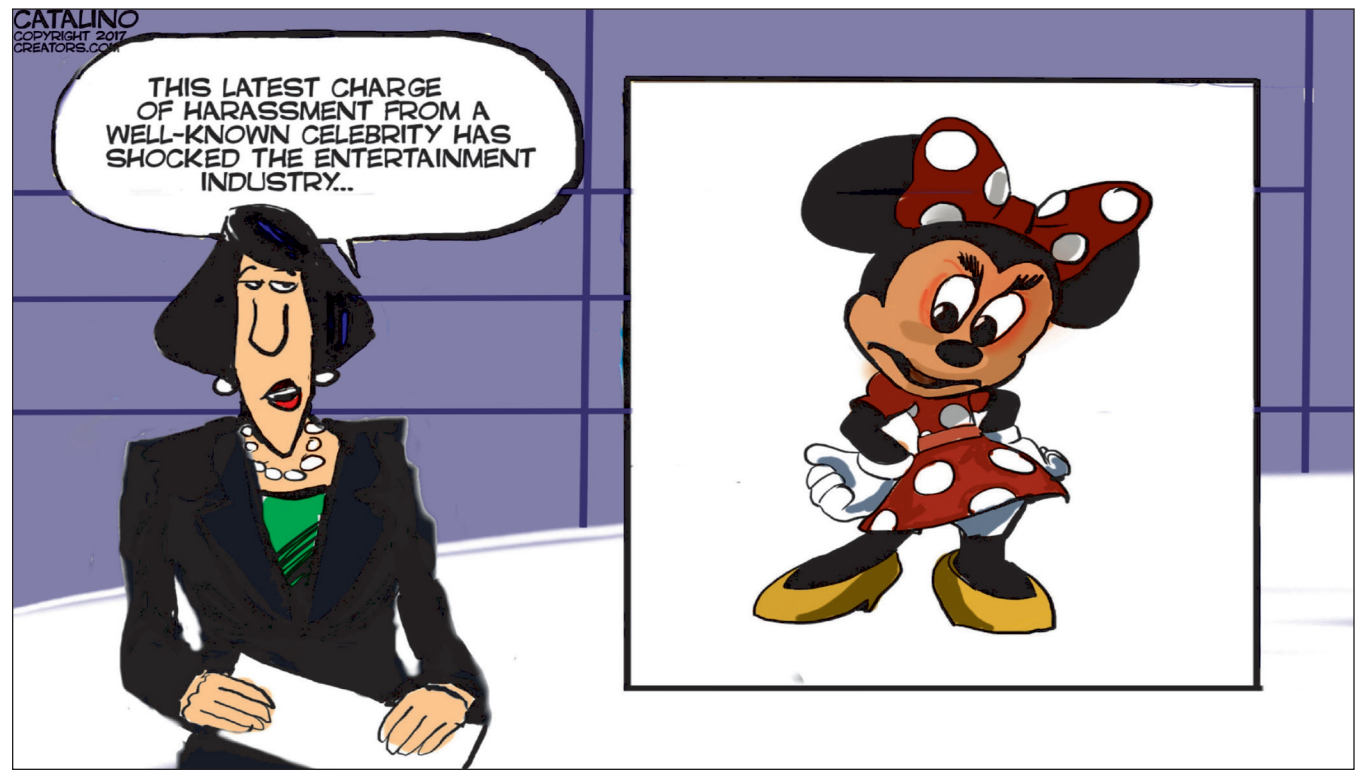
And though we know what the outcome of such a war will be, neither the United States, Republic of Korea, Japan, nor any of their allies, wish for war. Seoul, the capital of South Korea, is just 35 miles away from the demilitarized zone between the two clashing Koreas — well within range of DPRK's conventional artillery, not to mention their missiles. As soon as a war breaks out, North Korea will unload everything in its arsenal; for them it will be, "use it or lose it," and they will bring as much destruction as possible for the short remainder of the nation's lifespan. In the first 72 hours of the conflict, the death toll will reach well into the millions, including the thousands of Americans, military or otherwise, living in South Korea right now. If America rushes in to defend her ally — which she will — the dangerous possibility of a strike on U.S. soil becomes real. In short time, Pyongyang is toppled, and the evil regime is no more. But at what cost? One of the most densely populated cities in the world is in flames. The entire Korean peninsula is a wasteland of desolate destruction. The death count is unprecedented. War has proven itself to be the wrong answer to this conundrum.

For the sake of taking a side, I will say that based on all evidence provided, there will be no war over Korea. There is just too much to lose and very little to gain on both sides. That said, however, wars seldom happen between two willing parties, and all it could take is a spark to light the entire situation alight; it will not take much to provoke the autocrat of a small nation with the world against him, especially when he has an itchy trigger finger and a, "use it or lose it," mentality. The key word in all of this is "provoke." He is not actively searching for conflict, and rightly so. We as a nation should prepare ourselves for war, as we have been, but sincerely strive for (diplomacy, diplomacy, *diplomacy*) and expect peace in the region.

There will be no war. Not unless we consciously choose to provoke one, and we know far too well that there are safer and more reasonable alternatives to armed conflict.

Michael Hiebert is a member of the MIT Class of 2021.

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not reflect the official position of MIT's ROTC program, the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.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THIS LATEST CHARGE OF HARASSMENT FROM A WELL-KNOWN CELEBRITY HAS SHOCKED THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY...

CORRECTIONS

The first paragraph of an article about Shiva Ayyadurai last week stated that he is "a Republican candidate for the 2018 Massachusetts Senate election." To be more clear, this should read that he is a Republican candidate for the 2018 United States Senate election for Massachusetts.

In last week's print edition, a box at the bottom of the front page about the Shiva Ayyadurai article said "3 MIT degrees =/= a good senate candidate," but Ayyadurai actually has 4 degrees.

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Editor in Chief Vivian Zhong, Executive Editor Emma Bingham, and Opinion Editor Steven Truong.

Dissents are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, **columns**, and **editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to *letters@tech.mit.edu*. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech*'s Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

TO REACH US

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. Email is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to *general@tech.mit.edu*, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by emailing *eic@tech.mit.edu*. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to *news@tech.mit.edu*. Letters to the editor should be sent to *letters@tech.mit.edu*. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at *http://thetech.com*

OPERA REVIEW

The greedy, horrific, but fairly moving tale of Mr. Burke and Mr. Hare's victims

The world premiere of this dark comedy opera did not disappoint with its new take on an old legend

COURTESY OF LIZA VOLL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BOSTON LYRIC OPERA

Poor of wallet but rich in spirit, street performer Daft Jamie (Michael Slattery) laments the fate of the destitute, homeless and otherwise disenfranchised people of Edinburgh.

The Nefarious, Immoral, But Highly Profitable Enterprise of Mr. Burke & Mr. Hare

Music by Julian Grant

Libretto by Mark Campbell

Commissioned by Music-Theatre Group with the support of Boston Lyric Opera

Cyclorama at Boston Center for the Arts

By Nathan Liang
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

"The people of Edinburgh aren't…dying…QUICKLY ENOUGH!"

Here cry the despairing voices of the schools of anatomy. The cadavers are running low, so study is restricted. Gravedigging is illegal, and only those who die as criminals or as otherwise properly indicated by the state are allowed to be sold for science, so supply is limited.

Then, welcome Mr. Burke (Jesse Blumberg) and Mr. Hare (Craig Colclough) to the scene. Two no-good chaps looking for a way to make some quick coin, they live in Tanner's Close, a lodging house. Here, poor Donald (David Cushing) dies of a battle wound and Mr. Burke and Mr. Hare decide to ship his body off to Surgeon's Square, where their first profit is made. After enjoying in the temporary richness of Donald's body, Hare realizes the profits that could be made by targeting the dispensable of their community, whether it be the starved, the poor, or the woefully ill. All are easily forgotten. He convinces a reluctant Burke to join in on his bright idea while their wives, unashamedly wanting to live a spoiled life of luxury, gleefully help them.

This is the premise of Julian Grant and Mark Campbell's mouthful of an opera, *The Nefarious, Immoral, But Highly Profitable Enterprise of Mr. Burke & Mr. Hare*. They take inspiration from the actual Burke and Hare murders, which took place in 1828 Edinburgh. Another intriguing part of their opera is the fact that the theater is shaped specifically to mimic that of an anatomy classroom. It brings a more intimate yet sterile feel to the environment of the opera. Everything is pristine, white, and clean despite the damning blood on everyone's hands.

Now imagine the victims of Burke and Hare's murders recalling the events leading up to their own hapless ends. Imagine them lamenting about the terrible life they had or the horrid fate that befell them while they stand on the very surgeon's table they're subjected to in death. This is what Grant and Campbell accomplish with pitiful character development and bone-chilling or heart-wrenching orchestral accompaniment. Each deathly apparition confronts the audience as what they were supposed to be treated like in their living life: a human; unfortunately, under Burke and Hare's greedy hands, they are merely pigs to slaughter and sell to the butcher.

Through all of the macabre implications of the opera, many interesting and relevant themes are brought up in *Burke & Hare*. Dr. Knox (William Burden) brings up the question of favoring the greater good or the individual good. Dr. Ferguson (David McFerrin) is the questionable moral compass that tries to vie for the good of the individuals before being quieted by Dr. Knox's call for the banishment of ignorance and the advancement of good ol' health care. Meanwhile, Hare is the embodiment of greed. The tinkling of coins makes him deaf to the humanity of his victims, but Burke is not so lucky to share in on Hare's lack of empathy.

The opera gradually escalates to the manic zone of moral discomfort you'd expect from a story focusing on people being murdered for the sake of profit. Campbell provides no comfort in rationalizing Burke and Hare's motives aside from the obvious one of greed and instead focuses on the lamentable repercussions caused by their reckless murders. The content of each musical number works well to push the story forward and rear the dark cloud that forms in the heart of Edinburgh. I especially liked the act titled "The Others," in which Burke and Hare's killings begin to pile up in a frantic count. The chalkboard used to detail victims' names becomes a frame of scribbles with the occasional "£10" accent, and the sparse use of particular instruments reflects the growing mood of despair.

However, the life of the opera isn't solely found in just the writing. Each featured artist and singer involved with the opera brings compelling characters to the stage and really drags the audience into the gritty reality of the history. The soul of the story is found in the way each artist carries themselves and the husk of their characters, whether it drags them into regrettable self-hate or a myriad occurrence of self-reassurances for one's security.

When you turn a blind eye to the easily forgotten, "someday, [they] may not be there." But cry not, for you may not let them be completely forgotten when this innovative opera hopefully returns to Boston someday.

MUSICAL REVIEW

They did succeed on Broadway (and in La Sala)

The Musical Theatre Guild gives an A1 performance of Monty Python's Spamalot

Monty Python's *Spamalot*

Book and Lyrics by Eric Idle

Music by John du Prez and Eric Idle

Directed by David Favela '18

La Sala de Puerto Rico

Nov. 10 – 12, 16 – 18

By Samantha Seaman

Monty Python's *Spamalot* follows the adventures of King Arthur and his faithful sidekick, Patsy, as they embark on a journey across England to enlist knights and find the famed Holy Grail.The show is a comedy of miscommunication from the very start, opening on an ensemble number set ostensibly in Finland, to the English narrator's surprise. Once the miscommunication is set to rights, the ensemble grumbles offstage, making way for King Arthur (Paul Gallagher G), who gallops majestically on with the clip-clopping of coconut shells in lieu of a horse. This trend of self-awareness continues throughout the show. It nimbly plays with both gags from the original Monty Python movie and Broadway stereotypes, even including some songs featuring both.

The entire cast is excellent and has great vocal balance as well as clean choreography (with just the right number of kick lines). Every audience member can tell that the ensemble is having as much fun as the spectators. Lizzie Mears shines as Sir Robin, leading (and sometimes running away from) King Arthur's men through the maze that is the production of a Broadway musical. Alejandro Vientós ('17) plays an excellent Sir Galahad, educating King Arthur on the finer points of the anarcho-syndicalist commune and effecting a miraculous transformation from his humble origins to a knight worthy of the King. And, proving that supporting roles are just as important as leads is Patsy (Kali Rosendo, G), cheering King Arthur up, shouldering the better portion of his heavy load, and even occasionally saving him from certain failure.

And of course, no show can be complete without the work done behind the scenes: the hours put into constructing the set, completing costumes, hanging lights, and designing the sound system all paid off. The show has a wonderful visual and aural aesthetic that draws the audience into the world of the action. In particular, the sound served as a valuable bridge during set changes and backstage costume changes, keeping the audience engaged even though nothing was happening visually.

All told, the show was a great experience, containing gags for newcomers to the unique brand of humor that is Monty Python, and new jokes for those already familiar with the story. I highly recommend seeing this show. It'll have you looking "on the bright side of life."

ARTS ARTS ARTS

ARTS ARTS ARTS

Italy

Solution, page 12

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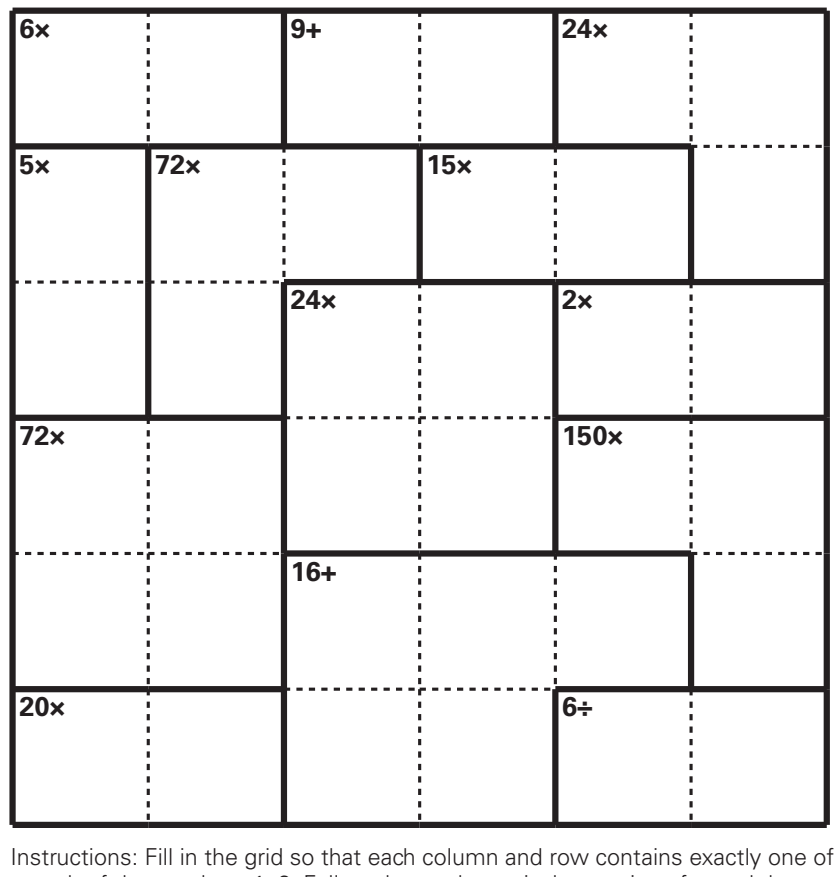
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Sweden

Solution, page 12



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

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MIT SINGAPORE STUDENTS' SOCIETY

PRESENTS

Kopitiam

Saturday, 18 November 2017 at 7 PM

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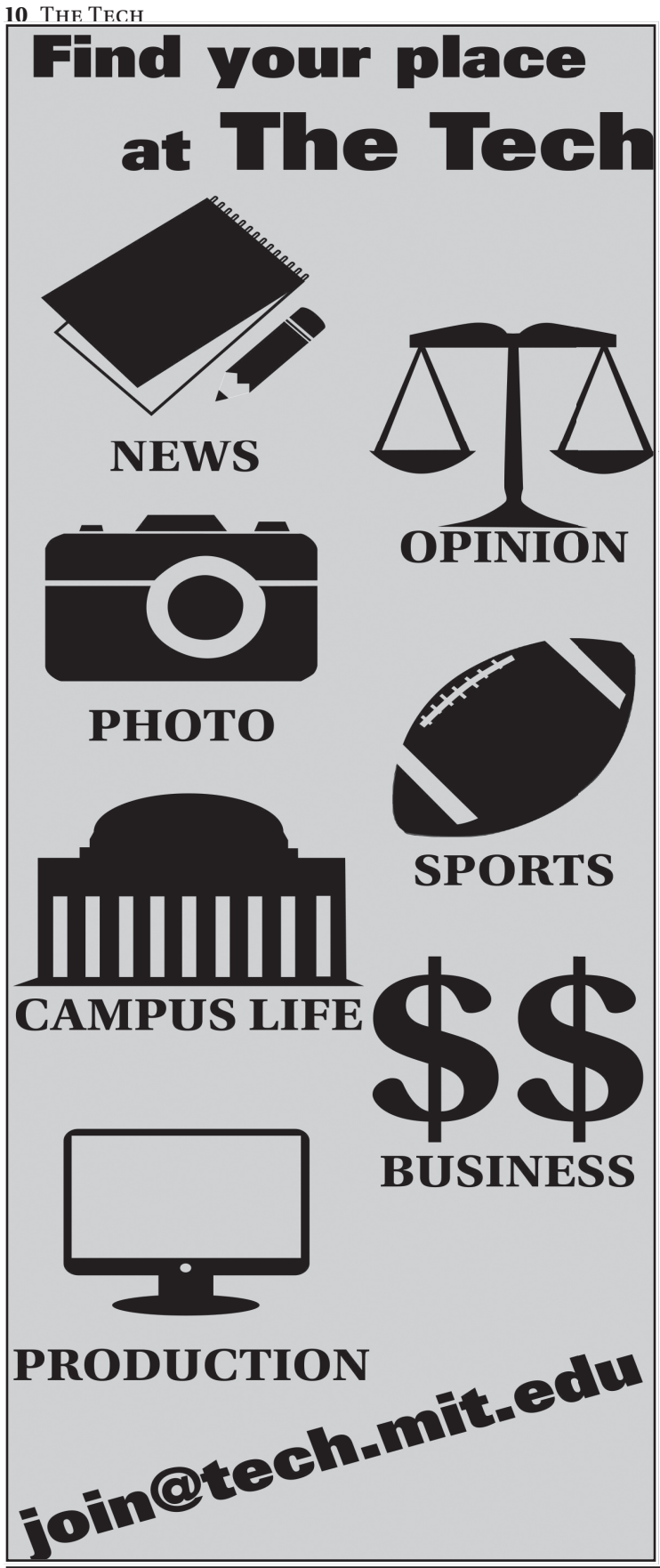


Ombuds Office helps students navigate difficult situations

Harassment, from Page 1

ment in Academia on the Career Choices of Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine, presented stark statistics from the National Postdoctoral Association about the prevalence of sexual harassment affecting female graduate students.

"Undergraduate women are harassed by undergraduates. Graduate women are harassed by faculty," Widnall said. Twenty-eight percent of graduate women are harassed during graduate school, mostly in their workplace and at conferences. Half of people accused of harassment are over 40 years old, despite a majority of those describing the harassment being under 30. She summarized her position by stating, "Universities have a responsibility to create a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment."

The discussion then turned to questions submitted by the audience. One commonly submitted question asked what happens to students after submitting a complaint.

Raquel Irons, an MIT Human Resources staff member who deals with Title IX violations regarding faculty and staff, responded to how the university typically deals with complaints. "We understand that the situation is difficult, but we do want to encourage people to come forward," she said. In formal investigations, she partners with a faculty member from the school of the staff member. If there is a violation of policy, she indicated "there could be sanctions," but did not go into detail on what the sanctions might look like.

Sarah Rankin, Title IX and Bias Response (T9BR) coordinator for MIT, went into specifics about faculty retaliation against accusers, which she said was the major concern for graduate students who experience harassment by faculty. "We have policies against retaliation, but that is not very comforting to graduate students," she said.

She mentioned the possibility of a professor talking negatively about a student at a private meal as an issue that would be difficult to catch. For letters of recommendation, she mentioned that one possibility is "to work with the department to have a standard recommendation letter reviewed by third parties" which could prevent a retaliatory statement by the faculty when writing these letters.

She went on to address another common concern she saw: the notion that nothing happens to tenured faculty when found responsible for harassment. To this, she mentioned that a verdict limiting ability to have graduate students could still have a significant effect on the faculty's career (even if they can't be fired).

Rankin added that formal investigations are not the only option: students can just report harassment without an investigation, so if other students come forward, there will be more evidence for the investigation to use.

Some questions revolved around what the administration is doing to prevent cases of sexual harassment. One attendant asked if there is a required workshop for men to become educated about the issue.

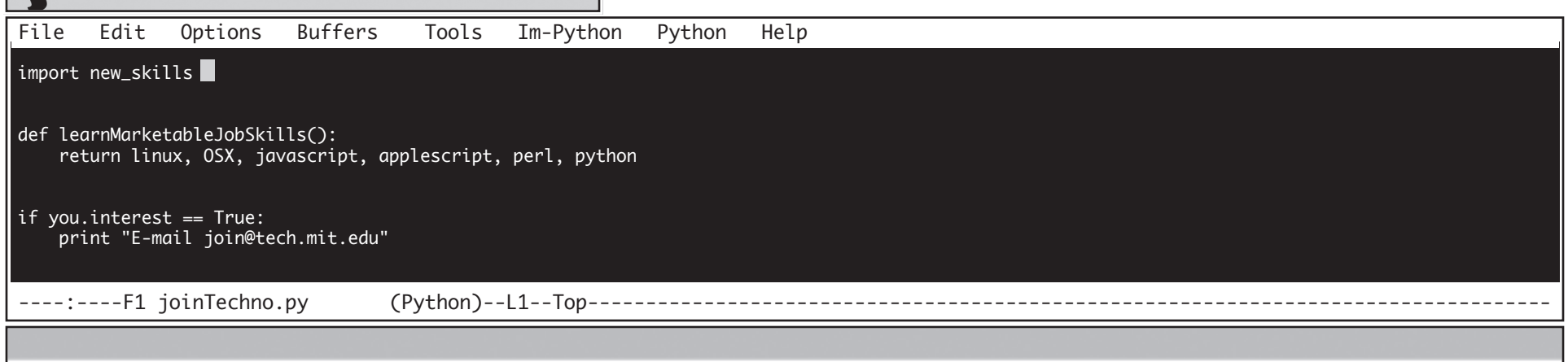
Rankin and Kelley Adams from Violence Prevention and Response (VPR) discussed the mandatory in-lab training the Department of Chemistry currently uses. This training focuses on bystander intervention and is led by instructors from T9BR and VPR. Rankin quoted a male attendant of the training who had remarked, "I haven't considered the fact that I should speak up before." The program is currently available only for the chemistry department, and Rankin and Adams agreed that they do not have the resources to expand it to every lab on campus.

Kedaigle asked the panel's view of recent events around the country regarding sexual harassment. Judi Segall, one of the two ombudspersons at MIT, stated that recent events "opened up a Pandora's box of reflecting for so many women" and specifically mentioned that normalizing the discussion can help society find ways to deal with and prevent harassment.

Segall's office, the Ombuds Office, is a confidential resource for everyone in the MIT community. It keeps no records (not even of who meets with them), does not take sides, and exists to provide information to anyone who wants to navigate sticky situations. In cases of harassment, Segall indicated that the Ombuds Office aims to help people "reduce their sense of vulnerability."

When attendees asked about specific situations, like whether an advisor touching a graduate student's face is considered harassment, the neutrality of the Ombuds Office came into focus. Judi did not assume wrongdoing on the part of any person in the situation and discussed asking reflective questions to help people understand their options. In contrast, Adams focused on supporting the survivor and informing them of options. From these questions Adams highlighted a difference between these two confidential offices: "Ombuds is a neutral office. We are an advocate-centered office.

Like the #MeToo campaign, the event was a starting point in a long discussion on sexual harassment. It highlighted gaps like the difficulty in getting graduate students to come forth due to fear of retribution, uncertainty whether certain actions are considered harassment by MIT, and the challenge of preventing harassment by tenured faculty.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return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python
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print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"
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SARAH WANG—THE TECH

Community Giving at MIT hosted a Used Book Fair Nov. 8 in the Bush room (10-105), selling books including textbooks, classics, sci-fi novels, children's books, and travel guides. Proceeds went to Community Giving to fund a passenger van for the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House.

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"Don't be afraid to have big visions, but have manageable goals to get there."
- participant commenting on how LeaderShape helped her implement her vision for her community

100% of students who did LeaderShape in 2015 or 2016 reported that:
- They developed their **capacity to lead**
- They appreciated the time to **self-reflect** and experienced **personal growth**
- They would **recommend** LeaderShape to others

Attend an **information session!** Nov 21st @ 12 PM in W20-Mezzanine Lounge

****This opportunity (transportation, lodging & food) is offered to students free of charge****

Solution to Italy

from page 7

7	2	5	4	6	3	8	9	1
4	3	1	8	9	5	2	6	7
8	9	6	7	1	2	3	4	5
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6	1	3	9	2	8	7	5	4
2	8	9	5	4	7	1	3	6
5	7	4	6	3	1	9	2	8

Solution to Sweden

from page 7

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3	4	2	1	5	6
2	3	1	6	4	5
4	5	3	2	6	1

Solution to Spain

from page 8

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9	2	4	1	5	7	8	6	3
1	3	5	2	6	8	9	7	4
6	8	1	7	2	4	5	3	9

Solution to Material

from page 8

■	H	A	D	■	L	A	R	D	■	H	O	N	O	R
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C	A	N	V	A	S	T	E	N	T	■	O	A	H	U
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S	L	A	T	E	■	W	I	N	E	■	E	L	S	E
H	E	R	O	S	■	S	E	E	M	■	R	S	T	■